

Application No.: 08/895,493
Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 dated December 27, 2004
Reply to the Office Action of August 26, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 – 155 (Canceled)

Claim 156 (Currently Amended): A method of controlling copyrights of digital data, comprising:

supplying to a user at least one of a plurality of utilization permit keys that corresponds only to at least one of different types of uses of the digital data requested by the user, each of the utilization permit keys permitting only the corresponding at least one of the different types of uses of the digital data; and

decrypting encrypted digital data using the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys for performance of only the requested use of the digital data.

Claim 157 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 156, wherein the different types of uses of the digital data include display, edit, storage, copy, and transfer.

Claim 158 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 156, wherein the plurality of utilization permit keys include a display permit key permitting only display of the digital data, an edit permit key permitting only display and editing of the digital data, a storage

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permit key permitting only storage of the digital data, a copy permit key permitting only copying of the digital data, and a transfer permit key permitting only transferring of the digital data.

Claim 159 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 156, wherein a copyright control program ensures said decrypting is for performance of only the requested use of the digital data.

Claim 160 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 156, further comprising displaying a copyright control message by a copyright control program when the user attempts one of the different types of uses of the digital data different from the requested use of the digital data.

Claim 161 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 156, further comprising limiting, by a copyright control program, a number of times the digital data is used.

Claim 162 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 156, further comprising limiting, by a copyright control program, a number of times the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys is used for decryption of the encrypted digital data for the requested use of the digital data.

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Claim 163 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 156, further comprising maintaining, by a copyright control program, copyright information on the digital data.

Claim 164 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 163, wherein the copyright information includes history information on authorship.

Claim 165 (Previously Presented): A method according to any one of claims 159 to 163, further comprising supplying the copyright control program to the user with the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys.

Claim 166 (Previously Presented): A method according to any one of claims 159 to 163, further comprising supplying the copyright control program to the user with the encrypted digital data.

Claim 167 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 156, wherein the database includes a key control center for said maintaining of the plurality of utilization permit keys.

Claim 168 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 167, further comprising supplying the copyright control program from the key control center to the user with the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys.

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Claim 169 (Currently Amended): A method of controlling copyrights of digital data, comprising:

supplying to a user at least one of a plurality of utilization permit keys that corresponds to only at least one of the different types of uses of the digital data requested by the user including display, edit, copy, storage, and transfer, each of the utilization permit keys permitting only the corresponding at least one of the different types of uses of the digital data;

decrypting encrypted digital data using the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys only when the requested use is display or edit; and

performing only the requested use of the digital data based on the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys.

Claim 170 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 169, further comprising encrypting the decrypted digital data again after performance of the requested use, when the requested use is display or edit.

Claim 171 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 169, wherein the plurality of utilization permit keys include a display permit key permitting only display of the digital data, an edit permit key permitting only display and editing of the digital data, a storage permit key permitting only storage of the digital data, a copy permit key permitting only copying of the digital data, and a transfer permit key permitting only transferring of the digital data.

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Claim 172 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 169, wherein a copyright control program ensures said step of performing is only of the requested use of the digital data.

Claim 173 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 169, further comprising displaying a copyright control message by a copyright control program when the user attempts one of the different types of uses of the digital data different from the requested use of the digital data.

Claim 174 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 169, further comprising limiting, by a copyright control program, a number of times the digital data is used.

Claim 175 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 169, further comprising limiting, by a copyright control program, a number of times the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys is used for decryption of the encrypted digital data.

Claim 176 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 169, further comprising maintaining, by a copyright control program, copyright information on the digital data.

Claim 177 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 176, wherein the copyright information includes history information on authorship.

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Claim 178 (Previously Presented): A method according to any one of claims 172 to 176, further comprising supplying the copyright control program to the user with the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys.

Claim 179 (Previously Presented): A method according to any one of claims 172 to 176, further comprising supplying the copyright control program to the user with the encrypted digital data.

Claim 180 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 169, wherein the database includes a key control center for said maintaining of the plurality of utilization permit keys.

Claim 181 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 180, further comprising supplying the copyright control program from the key control center to the user with the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys.